

## WASHINGTON.

## Battle Raging Between Resumptionists and Inflationists.

## Alliance of the West and South.

## The Financial Poverty of the Reconstructed States and Its Remedy.

## The Proposed Restoration of the Franking Privilege.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20, 1874.

The Inflationists Meeting the Resumptionists in Fierce Array in the Senate—Probable Victory of the Former—The Granger Influence Apparent in the Alliance of West and South.

The proceedings in the Senate became interesting to-day by reason of their suggestiveness. In Oglesby's speech during the morning hour on the question of cheap transportation he presented a petition for that consummation, saying the subject was of more importance than finance, and while he protested a good republican doctrine in elucidating his subject he looked kindly in the direction of the grangers. He elaborated his argument that the national government should take cognizance of the railroads, and that the constitution should provide a remedy for existing evils, by saying that the prices of Western products fixed in foreign markets, it was a question of importance to the Western producer that we have cheap transportation from the point of production to the point of consumption. In his strong way he hung out a challenge for the West, which was echoed by Clayton and Bogy in continuation. In an intrepid notification to the Senate that the West was to be heard and was not behind the advance guard from this section. Coming with the same steady step was the South, in the championship of Gordon, who, with native eloquence, appealed in a granger's philosophy for legislative aid in the behalf of the agricultural interest. One might well say, as he contemplated the gathering cohorts getting ready for the bloodless fray, "This is indeed a good day for the grangers." As the discussion of this financial question has touched no party lines, of course those in favor of inflation as well as their opponents, each anxious to have a majority, were casting about for such casual reserves as each might be able to bring to their own standard, and yesterday the West, with fearless shout, hanging its banners on the outer walls, set forth unrestrained the congenial elements, and as the South doctored under the leadership of Gordon the cry was, "Still they come!" in favor of inflation. The hard money men looked to their laurels, but the influence of Morton was at work to check them; and now, while it has appeared heretofore that the Senate were for the specie resumption or contraction policy, it may now be safely said that the honors are equally divided and that the views of the House will finally prevail in favor of issuing more currency. At all events to-day the climax was reached, and departing from the cautious generalship of Morton, the contending forces from the West have clearly drawn their lines, abandoned their cover and ambush and stand out bold and defiant in battle's magnificent stern array. It was refreshing to behold Gordon, of Georgia, to-day, when he rose on the financial question. Dressed with native eloquence and a confidence in the mastery of his subject, achieving manuscript, he gallantly grappled the difficulties of his theme. Gordon, who was late Major General in the Confederate army, and present at the surrender of Appomattox, is a fine, soldierly appearing man, of erect mien and bristling with intelligence. He spoke scholarly and argumentatively, and at times reached somewhat the ideal of the grand advocate of his stricken and impoverished section. While some doubts had arisen of his reconstructedness, he gave expression to such national loyalty and deep feeling for the honor and dignity of the whole country as would warrant the opinion that the stern school in which he had served during the rebellion sought him out only the purer for it, like refined gold. He tempered the effect of such beautiful sentiment that one might have said it was not a case of "hard cash," but sympathetic fealty. In the course of Gordon's arguments, which were very good and masterly in figurative allusions, he drew a painful yet practical view of the present condition of the South. It had become unprofitable to plant cotton, and during the coming year not more than one-third of a crop would be planted. The South was suffering for banking facilities and currency. He ably reviewed the case as presented by those who preceded him, and said the panic was produced by the rigidity, non-elasticity and insufficiency of the currency, the system of which had made us a nation of speculators and gamblers. He endorsed the views of Logan and Morton, showing what the ill effects of a return to specie payments would be and what the benefits of issuing more currency, which would largely flow to the South and relieve it from the heavy interest, amounting to twenty-five per cent, which it has to pay to borrow money. He scouted the effort to make a preventive against panic, and instanced the extreme of England and France in the past. He referred to what England had done through inflation in the cultivation of cotton in her Eastern colonies. He closed with a fine peroration, saying that it was time the agricultural interests of the South should receive special consideration in the legislation of the country. Concentrated capital was hammering at the doors of both wings of the Capitol for a hard money system; but he, speaking for the South, was for more money with an elasticity, convertible and interconvertible, and hoped the day would soon come when we would issue such a currency, founded on the credit of the whole country. In conclusion he said that the day the government issues such a currency in dollars, not promises to pay, that day we would have another Independence Day in enjoying an independence from our own and foreign speculators in gold. The effort was very fine one on the whole, and significant in the extreme as showing overtly that the South joins hands with the West and that the granger influence is quietly but steadily asserting its strength and may be said now to hold the balance of power. Chandler followed Gordon, but if he could be understood as saying anything, it was that he was in favor of more and better money, but not in favor of specie payments, and yet not in favor of inflation. It seems to be a fact that he is in favor of a relief to the country by a larger volume of currency; but his off-hand views cannot be said to be entitled, from the enunciation made to-day, to an abiding place in the arena of political economy. He spoke some wholesome truths, and said we were too rich a nation to imitate the worn out nations of Europe; but, beyond saying that he was opposed to increasing the volume of currency, no exact idea could be obtained of how he stood on the question of the hour. Brownlow sent his speech to be read by the Clerk, his paralyzed condition not admitting his oral delivery of it. He was for inflation. The specie resumptionists are having a consultation, and are evidently regarding the situation with great attention. This clashing of hands and kind of huzzah eloquence by the West and South portend that the hour of final test is at hand and the crisis will soon be over, doubtless carrying victory to the inflationists.

The Postal Route bill was again resumed and carried over, the Senate adjourning without having gotten through with it. During the morning an executive session was held and some minor appointments confirmed. The Finance Committee of the Senate agreed to favorably report Fenton's bill providing that in cases of fraudulent valuation of imported merchandise the confiscation penalty

shall apply only to the items undervalued and not to the whole invoice.

## Senator Fenton to Unburden Himself on Finance.

Senator Fenton will address the Senate to-morrow on the financial question, giving, in addition to his views of December 17, 1873, some ideas of interest to the laboring man as involved in the currency question. He will seek to show that the laboring man has a great interest in the subject, and that he should return in his own way to a specie basis.

## Reply of the Postmaster General to the Senate Resolution on Restoration of the Franking Privilege—\$2,350,000 a Year Saved by Its Abolition.

The Postmaster General has replied to a resolution of the Senate with regard to the franking privilege, &c. He says he had not the transmission of Congressional publications been discontinued the rates of postage on the mail matter now being made with the railroad companies would be higher in exact proportion to the increase in the weight of the mails which the transmission of this heavy matter would have caused, whatever that increase might be. The general interests of the postal service are promoted, however, by relieving the great mail lines of the pressure caused by the carriage of the immense amount of mail matter formerly sent over them. So rapid is the increase of postal business that the through lines are taxed to their utmost capacity to carry the letter correspondence and paper matter despatched from the commercial and publishing centers of the country. The net sales of official stamps for the next fiscal year, to cover the transmission of matter formerly sent through the mails under the frank of the heads of departments, are estimated at \$2,350,000. A comparison of the receipts of the post office for the quarter ended September 30, 1873, with those of the same quarter for the corresponding quarter of the preceding year, shows an aggregate increase of \$1,668,445, and an increase, exclusive of official stamps, of \$414,912. These figures, which do not include postage on Congressional matter, confirm the Postmaster General in the opinion heretofore expressed in a special report to Congress under date of January 12, 1871, that the cost of all free matter, if charged with the regular rates of postage, would amount to \$2,543,327 annually. The Postmaster General says he has answered the questions embodied in the resolution with as much accuracy as is possible from the little material at his command. It must be remembered that the law repealing the franking privilege did not go into effect until the 1st of July last, and that the department has had the advantage of that repeal for six months only. To arrive at anything like fair conclusions on the subject a trial of at least a year should be made, and time should be given for gathering accurate results from the entire country. Thoroughly impressed, as he is, with the belief that the repeal of the franking privilege was a wise measure and will be productive of the best results in the postal service, he earnestly recommends that it be not restored until at least a fair trial can be made. In his last report he recommended a reduction of postage on books to one cent for two ounces, which is the lowest rate now allowed by law for any kind of matter. If that suggestion should be adopted he cannot see why postage should not be paid upon Congressional documents as well as upon departmental matter by an appropriation from the Treasury. Such action would amply provide for the transmission by mail of all desirable documents to the people, and enable the department to maintain that degree of accuracy in its administration which is essential to its complete success. In the event, however, of returning to a general distribution to the people of improved seed and garden seeds and public documents, he trusts he may be permitted to suggest, in view of all the facts, that the department should be empowered to arrange for their transportation as freight in other conveyances than mail cars, so as not to embarrass the legitimate postal business of the country or retard the attainment of the perfection of the system, which should be the constant aim of those engaged in its management. He is firmly convinced that the practice in this respect which prevailed before the abolition of the franking privilege cannot be revived except at the expense of the important commercial and social interests and wants which the maintenance of the postal system of the country is chiefly intended to subserve. There is one restriction, however, which he never advised, and which, in his opinion, might be safely removed, and that is the prohibition forbidding the free transportation of weekly newspapers within the country of their publication, as heretofore authorized by law. The grounds upon which this recommendation is made are:—First, that such papers are so evenly distributed over the entire extent of the country, and confined to lines of transit so short, that they have never been known to impede the distribution and transportation of the mails; and second, that the amount of postage levied upon them as at present collected, while affording but a trifling revenue to the department, is yet heavy enough to be severely felt by their proprietors and patrons and to obstruct the dissemination of local intelligence. Good reasons may also be given in favor of a free exchange between newspapers.

## Yearly Postal Contracts—The Proposed Limited Restoration of the Franking Privilege.

It appears that the Solicitor of the Post Office Department has decided that locks, postal cards and stamps should be classed as stationery, and the contracts can only be made for one year. The Postmaster General stated would result disadvantageously in the supply of postal cards and locks. The committee will present to the House a resolution explanatory of the intent of the law, which will provide that such articles as fluctuate in price shall be contracted for by the year; but for articles of postal expenditure in which the government alone is the dealer, contracts can be made for such periods as in the judgment of the Postmaster General he deems for the best interests of the service. The committee will soon report a bill restoring the franking privilege to a limited extent.

## A New Rule to Abolish the Monday General Debate Order.

The House passed the whole of this afternoon in passing a new rule. There is a custom which has brought the lower branch of Congress into disrepute, if not contempt. Any member who can get the Speaker's ear or eye on Monday of each week after a certain hour, or on the last ten days of the session, can offer anything in the shape of a resolution, and if any one objects to it he can move to suspend the rules, and if two-thirds vote for the suspension he can carry it. If two-thirds do not vote for it he has accomplished an object in putting members on record by the eye and no vote. Some times this is considered a wonderful achievement of statesmanship, but most of the time it is the smallest sample of the parliamentary potato business. Any subject, from an ambiguous expression as to the currency to the necessity of hanging a rope to the moon, can be thus voted on. The time thus consumed is illustrated by the vote of Monday two weeks ago, when the House made three votes on the currency, one for Kelley's inflation, one for Holman's non-taxation and one for General Hawley for neither of both. The farce was carried on during the day to entrap the minority, by shrewd double-entendres, so as to make the democrats seem to be against the war and for it. It was once checked by a take off of Cox, who, after a dozen unbecoming resolutions, offered one—"That the rebellion be and the same is hereby abolished." It was carried and stopped the non-suspension for some weeks. It has broken down now, again that the Committee on Rules took it up and reported a rule some ten days ago. Then it was recommended. Now it comes back, reported by Mr. Maynard. At once it was assailed by Eldridge, Holman, Potter and others, and then by Hale, of Maine, and Davies, when Butler, Scotchby and others came to the rescue. It looked as if the contest were a struggle for the leadership between Davies and Butler. The Massachusetts members showed much feeling, but their feeling did not affect the House. It was determined to stop this foolish clap-trap voting on Mondays on abstract matters, and the votes ran in this direction. Votes were taken by the yeas and nays on other preliminary matters until the filibustering began, and the gas was turned on as members began to vote on the question of adjournment.

The President Wilson's Disappointment Regarding the Chief Justiceship.

The most disappointed man in Washington is Vice President Wilson. He came on here thinking that he could persuade the President to nominate Judge Rockwood Hoar as Chief Justice. But when he called at the White House and said, "I suppose that the name of Judge Hoar has been brought to your notice, Mr. President?" Grant simply replied, "Yes, a good deal against him." This so disheartened Mr. Wilson that he dried up and left. The next day he returned and sailed in more explicitly for Judge Hoar, but Grant merely suggested that it would be useless for him to nominate another man unacceptable to the Senate, and again the Vice President was left to rue the day that he made his suggestions, when he used to be President of the Senate, were prized, his suggestions as Vice President were unheeded. He will return to Boston and go to work on his health and his book again.

## Indebtedness and Condition of the Indian Bureau.

A statement has been prepared in the Indian Office showing the outstanding indebtedness for, and on account of, the Indian service prior to July 1, 1873, to be \$603,528, caused principally by the inadequacy of the appropriations heretofore made, and on account of collecting upon reservations and subsisting the Apache Indians in Arizona and New Mexico. The Commissioner says the policy regarding these Apaches has been to bring them peaceably, or by force, upon reservations, and by finding them and properly providing for their wants and necessities, keeping them quiet, and as much as possible from depriving the white citizens of the land which they have been leasing. The reservations they are hunted down by the military and either killed or captured, and brought back to the reservations. If not tied, therefore, by the government, they must either starve on the reservations or be killed off them. The Department has endeavored to keep them on the reservations, and to do all in its power to make them industrious and self-restraining.

## Encroachments Upon the Indians.

In response to the Senate resolution offered by Morrill, of Maine, on the 8th inst., requesting information relative to any unauthorized occupation or invasion of or encroachment upon the Indian Territory by individuals or bodies of men, in violation of treaty stipulations, the President transmitted to the Senate to-day a communication from the Secretary of the Interior, in which he states:—"The Commissioner of Indian Affairs to whom said resolution was referred reported to this department on the 13th inst. the following facts: 'The department has no information indicating at the present time any violation of the treaty stipulations of the character therein indicated. It is proper to remark, however, that occasions have not been infrequent when portions of said Territory have been invaded and occupied by unauthorized persons, who have been treated as trespassers and for whose removal from said Territory the aid and co-operation of the military had been required.'"

## Proposed New Reservation in Washington Territory.

In the Senate to-day Mr. Oglesby, of Illinois, introduced a bill drafted by the Interior Department to establish a new reservation in Washington Territory for the Indians of the Colville Agency and the Coconos d'Alencas of Idaho. The proposed reservation is very extensive, comprising nearly all the territory lying between the 48th and 49th parallels of latitude and the 117th and 123rd meridians, together with that bounded by the 48th and 49th parallels and the 119th and 121st meridians. The establishment of this reservation is recommended by Special Commissioners J. W. Bennett, H. W. Reed and General Shanks. The bill provides that the settlers shall be paid for their lands and improvements. It was referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

## Deliberations of the Committee of Ways and Means.

The Committee on Ways and Means to-day had an interchange of opinions on the various subjects before them, including tariff and finance, but came to no conclusion.

## Woman's Wants.

Miss Anthony, Miss Cozzens, Mrs. Spencer and other female suffrage advocates appeared before the House Committee on Judiciary to-day in advocacy of the petition and the bill giving suffrage to women.

## Conventions by the Senate.

The Senate in executive session to-day confirmed the nomination of James H. Bangs, of the District of Columbia, to be Secretary of the Joint Commission for determining the boundary line between the United States and the British Possessions between the Lake of the Woods and the Rocky Mountains; also the following to be postmasters:—Charles W. Robbins at Niles, Ohio; Mrs. Elizabeth B. Cuthbertson at New Brighton, Pa.; Willard Howe at South Framingham, Mass.; B. T. Marsh at West Winsted, Litchfield county, Conn., and Amasa S. Tracy at Middlebury, Vt.

## Probability of the Success of the Move to Dispose of General Howard—The Partisan Obstacles in the Way.

General Howard, whose fame as a statesman, warrior and custodian of the Freedman's Bureau funds has embosomed itself in Congressional records forever, is to be inquired into if the House Committee on Military Affairs can carry its point. The court of inquiry proposed by joint resolution will be composed of five members. Three is the usual number. It is proposed that an honest investigation—if it passes the House it will be degraded in the Senate. Obstacle number two to an honest investigation—if the resolution passes the Senate and is approved by the President it will require a Congressional enactment to try him by court martial, if Howard is deserving of it. The status of limitation is in his favor, and is at present an obstacle which the House, with two-thirds majority republican, will never surmount. Some of the dismayed republicans, anxious to unload, are ready to throw Howard overboard and help lighten the republican party. He has been a dead weight for over six years, and ought to be able to take care of himself by this time. The day of philanthropy and tabernacles has gone forever, and stayovers cannot find sympathy with the party any longer.

## Removal of Duty from Licorice.

Early in the present session of Congress Mr. Davis, of Virginia, introduced a bill to rebate the duty on licorice and other ingredients used in the manufacture of chewing gum, &c. The bill is yet pending before the committee. He is now pressing it, and there is reason to believe that a favorable report will be made. If passed, the benefit of the measure will inure chiefly to the manufacturer of inferior articles of tobacco and the manufacturer of gum, but all classes will be more or less benefited. It will place American manufacturers upon a footing with foreign manufacturers, and allow fair competition in all markets. The propriety of reducing the Publication of Documents.

## The Joint Committee on Printing held their first meeting this session to-day, and commenced an informal discussion of the propriety and best means of reducing the publication of public documents. There will be further interchange of views before taking any action on the subject.

## Economy in Public Buildings.

Supervising Architect of the Treasury Mullett, who was before the House Committee on Appropriations to-day, gave a detailed statement of the condition of the public buildings in process of construction, and said his revised estimates were cut down to the lowest possible figure, and that the sums asked for were absolutely necessary to carry out work on the government buildings already commenced. It is known that, although the committees of the two houses on public buildings and grounds have taken no formal action, they are in accord on the point that they will not recommend appropriations for public works not already commenced.

## Extension of the Union Pacific Railroad.

Mr. H. H. Day, of New York, was before the House Committee on Judiciary this morning, advocating a subsidy of bonds and lands for the extension of the central branch of the Union Pacific Railroad Company. This company is seeking to extend its road from the present western terminus to the Union Pacific—a distance of 200 miles—and to receive a land and bond subsidy. They claim their right under existing laws. The amount involved is between \$8,000,000 and \$8,000,000, and the matter has been brought up by a bill introduced by Mr. Wilson, of Indiana, declaring that the company have no such right as they claim. No decision was reached.

The first evening reception of the season at the Executive mansion was this evening attended by an immense throng of ladies and gentlemen. The Diplomatic Corps, army, navy, Cabinet and both houses of Congress were well represented. A large number of strangers also availed themselves of this opportunity to pay their respects to the President. The Marine Band was in attendance.

## Secretary Robeson Unwell.

Secretary Robeson is suffering from a very severe cold, which confines him to his house.

## The Limit of the Legal Tender Currency.

The question of the right of the Secretary of the Treasury to draw on the \$44,000 reserve has been discussed by the Committee on Ways and Means, who have agreed to present the subject to the House and have it settled there. They will present a resolution, however, fixing the limit of the national legal tender currency at \$400,000,000. This will prevent the covering into the Treasury of any of the \$44,000,000 that has been paid out.

## Miscellaneous Nominations.

The President to-day sent the following nominations to the Senate:—Edward W. Arnold, to be Register of the Land Office at Grand Island, Neb.; Norman Thacher, to be Receiver of Public Moneys at Menasha, Wis.; Alexis E. Service, to be Receiver of Public Moneys at La Crosse, Wis.; E. W. Holbrook, to be Register of the Land Office at New Orleans, La., and Presley M. Rixey, to be an Assistant Surgeon in the Navy.

## Limitation of Customs Confiscations.

The Senate Finance Committee this morning agreed to report favorably Mr. Fenton's bill, providing that in cases of fraudulent undervaluation of imports the confiscation penalty shall apply only to the particular item or items undervalued, and not to the whole invoice.

## Eric Railway Passes and Honest Congressmen.

A letter, of which the following is a copy, dated at the office of a New York law firm, has been received by many members of Congress here, both democratic and republican:—

DEAR SIR:—I will thank you to inform me whether your Erie annual pass for 1874 came safely to hand. It was transmitted for you several days ago. Yours truly,

Some have answered jokingly that they have not received any such passes and have no use for them, and some do not pay attention to the above communication. The amusing part of the whole transaction is that in no case have these passes been forwarded to the parties to whom the inquiry is addressed. The new constitution of Pennsylvania provides a heavy penalty against corporations who issue passes to public men, and it is suspected that the West street firm is fishing for bait to catch the Erie company.

## Civil Rights for the Colored Race.

The National Civil Rights Council have issued an address to the colored people throughout the country, setting forth what further action and legislation are essential to make their citizenship complete. It is complete organization everywhere among colored people in support of civil rights, regarding it as essential to be active, harmonious and united.

## The Revenue Bureau Robbery.

It was E. A. Williams (and not A. B. Williams, as was published in many of the papers) who was arrested for the robbery of the Internal Revenue Bureau. The latter is a highly respected member of the Washington Bar.

## The Colonization Society—Growth and Progress of Liberia.

The fifty-seventh anniversary meeting of the Colonization Society was held here to-night, presided over by John H. B. Latrobe, and addresses were delivered by the Revs. George W. Sampson, W. T. R. Taylor, Thomas J. Peaine and John Orcutt. The report shows that the receipts for 1873, including a balance from the previous year of \$586, had been \$525,222. Of this sum there has been paid for passage and support of emigrants \$9,215 16; borrowed money returns, \$11,000, and for other objects, \$15,473 37; leaving \$233 49 in the treasury on January 1, 1874. The emigration to Liberia under the auspices of the society has been uninterrupted for the last fifty-three years. Those sent in 1873 make the number colonized since the war to be 3,000, and of those sent from the beginning of 1848, exclusive of 5,722 recaptured Africans whom we induced and enabled the United States to settle in Liberia, making a grand total of 23,770 persons to whom the society has given homes in Africa. Intelligence from Liberia indicates growth and prosperity. Agriculture is steadily progressing.

## Private Printers Against Public Printers.

The master printers of this city have addressed a long memorial to the Senate Committee on Printing, protesting against giving all the printing of briefs for the Supreme Court and the Court of Claims to the Government Printing Office. They maintain that private suitors should pay for printing their briefs at private offices, and they attack the management of the government offices right and left.

## An Entertainment with No Congressional Present.

Secretary Richardson's elegantly furnished residence was the scene of a gay "german" on Monday evening, given by his daughter. As the entire herd of Congressmen, with their wives, daughters and female friends, did not have to be invited, it was a most delightful affair.

## The Benefits of Free Letter Delivery.

The House Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads to-day decided that the benefits of free letter delivery by carriers should not extend to cities having less than 25,000 inhabitants. They also agreed to a resolution explaining a previous act of Congress referring to the Post Office Department.

## Chartering Trade with China and Japan.

Mr. E. E. Rice, of California, delivered an argument before the House Committee on Commerce this morning, advocating the passage of a bill referred to them to incorporate the Asiatic Commercial Company, which provides for the granting of a charter covering the right of the company to trade with the governments of China and Japan.

## REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

## Organization of the New Committee—Colonel Joel W. Mason Elected Temporary Chairman.

The new Republican Central Committee met last evening in Republican Hall for the purpose of organizing and electing officers. The chairman, Mr. Hugh Gardner, read the provisions of the constitution of the committee relating to the organization of a new Central Committee at the beginning of every year. According to the rules the secretary would call the names of all delegates whose credentials had been signed by a majority of the inspectors. Mr. George H. Lyon, the Secretary, then called the names of the delegates, among others Thomas Murphy, Collector Arthur, Alderman Vance, Charles S. Spencer, Benjamin K. Phelps, Salem H. Wales, William A. Darling, George Opdyke and John D. Lawson.

## Collector Arthur moved that Colonel Joel W. Mason be elected temporary Chairman. Colonel

Mason thanked the committee for the compliment paid him and expressed the hope that he would merit the respect and approval during the occupancy of this office.

Mr. THOMAS C. ACTON moved that Mr. George W. Lyons be elected temporary Secretary.

It has been decided to elect a committee of five, to be appointed by the Chair. Colonel Mason appointed Mr. Jacob M. Patterson, Jr. from the Third District; David H. Crowley, from the Fourth District; Mr. Joseph C. Pinkney, from the Fourteenth District; Mr. Benjamin K. Phelps, from the Seventeenth District; and Mr. Horace M. Ruggles, from the Eighteenth District. The Secretary announced that there were contested seats in the First, Sixth, Fifteenth and Twentieth districts, in the last-mentioned district four or five.

Ex-Judge Writts said it was desirable to hear the report of the committee as soon as possible, as it would not be necessary to organize an efficient republican organization in the annexed district, and moved that the committee report in two weeks. The committee on contested seats will meet on Friday afternoon, at half-past three o'clock.

## STAR-DEPTH WONDERS.

## Fifth Lecture by Mr. Richard A. Proctor.

The subject chosen last night by Mr. Richard A. Proctor for his fifth lecture was well calculated to afford him full scope for a display of careful research into the mysteries of the heavens. It would be difficult to select a theme better fitted to rivet the attention of an intelligent audience than the question of the infinity of space in which revolve the systems of worlds whose faint gleams come to us from the illimitable distance—worlds so remote that human intelligence fails to grasp even a faint idea of their remoteness. The astronomers tell us how many millions of miles these bodies are removed from our globe, but the intellect fails to comprehend the full meaning of these calculations. But the vastness and infinity of the heavenly system must ever give it an absorbing interest in the minds of thinking men, and the observations of the laws that guide the motion of the star systems must ever exercise a most elevating influence on the human mind by impressing on it the grandeur and infinite power of the Creator.

The lecturer first considered the question of the seeming calm of the star depths compared with the real vastness of the movements taking place in them. He opened, by recalling the hands of the audience to the gradual change of the rotation due to the influence of the tidal wave; but so slight is the effect of this disturbing cause that 2,000 years must elapse before a loss equal to three minutes of terrestrial time will result. Millions of years must, therefore, elapse before any perceptible change takes place from this cause. The stellar space is carried through space from east to west. Other motions are perceptible, but they are only apparent. They are due to the earth's gyrating like a gigantic top, which causes an apparent motion in the heavens. The quietude of the stars is only apparent; for, though they are relatively fixed, they rush in a tumult through space, and though the heavens seem at rest they are the scene of most stupendous activity. Among the multitude of stars visible the distance of some nine or ten only is approximately known, and indeed the distance of one only can be said to be satisfactorily determined, although the problem is of the deepest interest. The change of one star in the Centaur has been noticed, and in order to show the delicacy of the observation and its difficulty the lecturer remarked that this star was removed from our earth 210,000 times farther than the sun. In order to indicate the change of position it would be necessary to imagine the minute hand of a watch marking the two-hundredth part of a second, and the deviation of the line drawn to the star to mark its change of position would be less. Nor is there any way of measuring the discs of the stars, as the best telescopes fail to show them except as points of light in space. Their distance is measured by light. The star in the Centaur is 210,000 times farther off than the sun; it shines three times as brightly and is five times the sun's volume. But there is another star in the space known as the star of stars. It is four times as bright as the star in Centaur and five times as far away.

These facts would seem to point to the existence of a higher order of stars than our planets. It was conjectured that these bodies might have size and light, but not mass, and were therefore unable to exercise control in the systems or influence other bodies. But spectroscopic analyses allow us to ascertain in a most precise manner that these stars are, like our sun, glowing masses of matter shining through a surrounding envelope of vapors. The value of the spectroscopic analysis is due to its extreme delicacy, and the strictly scientific and unvarying results which it gives in recording the presence of certain elements in the planets. In order to make this clear to the audience the lecturer showed the sun and of the variable stars, and the sun spots on the stars were exhibited, as well as to make clear the mode in which the presence of certain matters was made evident on the different heavenly bodies. There were the lines on the spectrum indicating the presence of metals common to the earth. These experiments were as certain as if the observer carried into his laboratory a piece of the star and subjected it to chemical examination. The spotted stars were variable and resembled our sun. The spectroscopic proved the existence in them of metals and other matter in certain form. The question whether color is inherent in the colored stars or due to the cutting off of some color by the action of an atmosphere or envelope is full of interest. Great difference is shown in the spectrums of these stars—blue prevailing in some, orange, red and yellow in others. It is now generally accepted that color is not inherent in these bodies, but is due to the action of the envelopes on the light passing through.

A beautiful picture of a star group, supposed to be a cluster of suns, was exhibited by Mr. Proctor, presenting to the mind's eye the vision of a world without night, where noontide splendor would exist unceasingly and the skies know no night. If these worlds were inhabited the dwellers would be shut off from all knowledge of the existence of other worlds. They would never behold the splendor of the starry heavens which surround them on every side, and would have no idea of space. Passing on to the consideration of the nebulae, the lecturer produced a very fine diagram of the nebula in Orion, which showed clear evidence of the dynamical process. The mass of nebulae, floating with a clearly marked spiral motion, showed that it was not matter traveling in space, but nebulae passing through matter less dense. In order to demonstrate the enormous extent of the nebulae the lecturer reminded the audience of the immense diameter of even a single star of the first magnitude, which spread over the whole of the sky, and the theories of the Milky Way and the efforts of men like Herschel to lay bare the architecture of the heavens, and illustrating by diagrams the curious theories built up by astronomers, the lecturer proceeded to show in what these theories were defective and opposed to the discoveries made in late years. The attraction of the stars toward some unknown point in space was explained and illustrated by a diagram showing the motion and direction of a group of stars and marking the progress they would make in 36,000 years to the point to which they are tending.

Observations with powerful modern telescopes have exploded the old theories about the star system, and showed the system to be infinitely more wonderful than it had been imagined. In support of this statement the lecturer exhibited diagrams of the star system, as imagined by astronomers, and a map of the heavens showing the actual distribution. A sky map containing 40,000 stars was exhibited, which contrasted strangely with the theoretical systems of Herschel and other astronomers. It is estimated that by using powerful telescopes 20,000,000 of stars can be discovered and mapped down. This will give some idea of the infinity of the system, which seems to begin nowhere and end nowhere. The subject of the star depths is one well calculated to inspire awe in the thoughtful mind. Mr. Proctor brought his lecture to a close by relating the dream of Richter to show the infinite grandeur of the endless worlds rolling on ever into eternity.

## NEW YORK HARBOR BUOYS.

The Pilot Commissioners have recently been exerting their influence with the Light House Board in Washington to induce them to replace the can and nunbuys in New York harbor and keep them there during the winter months. For some years it has been the custom to withdraw the can and nunbuys from the harbor during the severe months. Last winter both spar and can buoys were kept down, and as the ice happened to be very heavy, the spar buoys were carried away. The pilots now complain that in thick weather it is very hard to get along without the can and nunbuys, and that the spar buoys, when blown away, are not easily casted up.

The Light House Board pleaded poverty in reply to the request of the Pilot Commissioners, and decline to purchase the spar buoys with can or nunbuys. They, however, add that perhaps they may be able to put down a few canbuys at some of the most important points, but that the cost of the spar buoys of the transatlantic steamers and large vessels drawing twenty-six feet of water to have the channels properly buoyed that if the government cannot afford that expense the steamer and ship owners will probably have to combine together and do the work themselves.

## CONCLUDING EVIDENCE.

## Frederick Heidenblut Found Guilty of Murder in the First Degree.

## The Prisoner's Confession—He Hears the Verdict with a Calm Indifference.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 20, 1874.

The interest which is shown by the people of this city concerning the revolving murder trial now going on here is simply enormous. The court room was crammed to its utmost capacity yesterday afternoon, and to-day an immense concourse stood upon the street outside eagerly waiting for the news which might reach their ears from within.

At ten o'clock the trial reopened, but as most of the witnesses brought forward were the officers who had effected the arrest of Heidenblut, and as the means they had used to capture him have already appeared fully in these columns, it is not necessary to record their testimony.

## THE PRISONER'S CONFESSION.

The most important witness of the day was Mr. Isaac Lowengrund, whom as he had had an interview with the murderer, and who after his arrest and obtained from him the confession of his guilt. He testified as follows:—I saw the prisoner in a cell at the station house; I asked him what he had shot the man for; I did not threaten him, nor did I offer him any inducements to tell me; the prisoner, answering me, said that his boss had asked him to murder a man, and he had done so. He testified as follows:—I saw the prisoner in a cell at the station house; I asked him what he had shot the man for; I did not threaten him, nor did I offer him any inducements to tell me; the prisoner, answering me, said that his boss had asked him to murder a man, and he had done so.

## GIVEN HIM SOME LOOKS.

while the wife scolded him continually; he wanted to get away, he told me, and hence was in need of money; he wished to go to a companion in Kentucky; I then asked him why he had tried to kill his wife, and he answered that he did not intend to kill her, but wanted

TO GIVE HER A B—D GOOD LICKING. He said that he had been a long time to come to his throat, and he told me that he realized that he was likely to be hanged for the murder of the man. He testified as follows:—I saw the prisoner in a cell at the station house; I asked him what he had shot the man for; I did not threaten him, nor did I offer him any inducements to tell me; the prisoner, answering me, said that his boss had asked him to murder a man, and he had done so.

## THE DEFENSE.

Mr. Shapleigh, counsel appointed by the Court to defend the prisoner, then arose and opened the case, stating that the murder was a premeditated one, and that the prisoner was a man of good character, and that he was not a criminal. He stated that as the trial struggle had taken place in a cellar, under circumstances which no outside party saw or understood, the jury were bound to give all reasonable doubt in favor of the prisoner, and he asked the jury to acquit him.

## SUMMING UP FOR THE STATE.